

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04211 160954 Z

15

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 DOTE-00 OIC-04 AID-20 RSR-01

TRSE-00 SS-14 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 COME-00 /114 W

----- 070480

R 160846 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1484

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 4211

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECAF, ETRN, PFOR

SUBJECT: RED: ECAF: 29 TH SESSION- COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN

REF: A. BANGKOK 4137

B. STATE 039558

1. ITEM ELEVEN OF ANNOTATED AGENDA IS TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF INABILITY (OR REFUSAL) OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION TO SEPARATE THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF. REAL ISSUES TO BE DEALT WITH ARE (A) PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF ASIAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT; (B) PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ASIAN SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT CENTER; (C) FUTURE FINANCING OF THE ASIAN HIGHWAY PROJECT, AND (D) THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN T&C DIVISION AND THE TRADE DIVISION ON SHIPPING QUESTIONS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO (A) THERE HAS BEEN CONFUSION OVER WHETHER PROPOSAL WAS TO CONVENE A ONE- TIME CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS TO BRING SOME ORDER INTO MULTIPLICITY OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES AND TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING SOME COORDINATING MECHANISM (HORIZONTAL ZONAL COUNCILS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED) OR WHETHER THIS SESSION WOULD BE ASKED TO ESTABLISH A COUNCIL OF TRANSPORT MINISTERS ON THE EUROPEAN MODEL, WITH A SIMILAR COMMITTEE AND SUB- COMMITTEE STRUCTURE. THE LATTER APPROACH WOULD IN OUR VIEW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 04211 160954 Z

DUPLICATE THE WORK OF THE T& C DIVISION OF ECAFE, THE T& C COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND THE ASIAN HIGHWAY COORDINATING COMMITTEE, ALL OF WHICH MIGHT THEN BE DISBANDED. A ONE-TIME CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS SUCH AS IS NOW SUGGESTED IN E/CN.11/L.367, MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SORT OUT THE PRIORITIES IN ECAFE'S WORK ON TRANSPORTATION AND GIVE IT A MORE REALISTIC DIRECTION, BUT THE CITED DOCUMENT WOULD HAVE THEM RUN THE GAMUT OF ALL T& C DIVISION PROJECTS WITHOUT INDICATING FOR WHAT PURPOSE. IF THE MINISTERS SHOULD WANT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THIS CONFERENCE AND ESTABLISH SUB-ORDINATE ORGANIZATIONS, THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS APPLY AS ABOVE. ANOTHER DANGER IS THAT THEY MIGHT WANT TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AND ACT AS A GOVERNING BODY FOR THE SECRETARIAT, AS THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION HAS IN THE PAST DONE WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION; IT WOULD BE WISE TO CAUTION AT THE OUTSET AGAINST SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ASIAN SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEE E/CN.11/L.368) LEAVES MANY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. THE SECRETARIAT ATTEMPTED TO RUSH THIS PROPOSAL THROUGH THE T& C COMMITTEE WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION AND WILL NOW ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE DECISION IN THE PLENARY SESSION, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS STRONG SENTIMENT IN THE T& C COMMITTEE AND THE TRADE COMMITTEE AGAINST HASTY ACTION BY THE COMMISSION WITHOUT CAREFUL STUDY OF THE PLAN BY THE COMMITTEES. DESPITE THE REQUEST OF THE T& C COMMITTEE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED STUDY, THE PAPER FAILS TO MENTION THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE ASDC TO THE PORT INFORMATION AND ADVISORY CENTER AND BRIEFLY ATTEMPTS TO DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SHIPPING INFORMATION AND ADVISORY CENTER IN TERMS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISMISSED BY THE T& C AND TRADE COMMITTEES AS UNSATISFACTORY: I. E., ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS.

4. A CASE COULD BE MADE FOR GROUPING ALL SHIPPING AND PORT MATTERS, ECONOMICAL AND TECHNICAL, INTO ONE NEW DIVISION OR CENTER AND GIVING LEGISLATIVE CONTROL TO A SHIPPING COMMITTEE, BUT THE PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE SECRETARIAT AND BY THE INDIAN ORIGINATORS. AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ALONG THESE LINES WOULD END THE JURISDICTIONAL SQUABBLES AND PERHAPS ALSO THEREBY DAMPEN THE AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE OF ECAFE ON QUESTIONS OF FREIGHT RATES AND CONFERENCE POLICIES. MOREOVER, THIS MAY BECOME A CASE OF ACCEPTING THE INEVITABLE, AND WE SHOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO BE TOO NEGATIVE ON THE MATTER.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 04211 160954 Z

FOR THE PRESENT IT SHOULD SUFFICE TO INSIST ON MORE TIME TO
STUDY THE PLAN IN ALL ITS UNEXPLAINED RAMIFICATIONS.

5. THE NETHERLANDS PERMREP HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMISSION
ADOPT

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE EXSEC TO CALL A MEETING OF PERMREPS
AND/ OR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE ECAFE
LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURE AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

TO THE 30 TH SESSION. THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION MAY MAKE THIS
PROPOSAL AT THE SESSION, AND RED RECOMMENDS THAT THE USDEL
ENDORSE IT.

6. EITHER SUCH A SPECIAL PERMREP TASK FORCE OR THE COMMISSION AT
THIS SESSION WILL NEED TO FIND A BETTER DEFINITION THAN IS NOW
PROVIDED BY PARAGRAPH 361 OF THE REPORT OF THE 27 TH SESSION OR
PARAGRAPH 260 OF THE REPORT OF THE 28 TH SESSION OF THE RESPEC-
TIVE SCOPE OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE AND THE T& C COMMITTEE (AND THE
CORRESPONDING SECRETARIAT DIVISIONS) WITH REGARD TO SHIPPING.
THE TRADE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ADOPTING THE RULE LAID DOWN IN
1968 BY THE SECRETARY- GENERAL IN DIVIDING RESPONSIBILITIES BE-
TWEEN UNCTAD AND ESA (E/4462/ ADD.1, 22 APRIL 1968; PARAS 14
AND 15), BUT THIS TOO LACKS CLARITY. THE DISTINCTION CURRENTLY
IN VOGUE IN THE SECRETARIAT IS BETWEEN ECONOMIC ON THE ONE HAND
AND TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ON THE OTHER. WE RECOMMEND THAT
AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT THE WORD QUOTE OPERATIONAL UNQUOTE BE
DROPPED AND PROHIBITED AND THAT SHIPPING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE
REGARDED AS ECONOMIC (TRADE DIVISION) OR TECHNICAL (T& C DIVISION).

7. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, THE ASIAN HIGHWAY COORDINATING
COMMITTEE (AHCC) IS IN OUR VIEW AN ANACHRONISM AND AN ANOMALY.
EXCEPT FOR A FEW GAPS WHICH ONLY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE AREAS
(NOT THE AHCC) CAN CLOSE, THE HIGHWAY EXISTS. WHAT IS NEEDED
NOW IS THE POLITICAL WILL TO OPEN THE BORDERS TO INTERNATIONAL
TRAVEL, SIMPLIFY DOCUMENTATION, AND PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL IN-
SURANCE COVERAGE. THESE QUESTIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN SERIOUSLY DIS-
CUSSED BY THE AHCC OR TACKLED BY THE TTB. THE UNDP HAS OBVIOUS-
LY TIRED OF THE GAME AND IS WIND
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO04211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730328/aaaahsuf.tel
Line Count: 152
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.BANGKOK 4137, B.STATE 039558
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971202; srp 971202
Subject: RED: ECAF: 29 TH SESSION- COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN
TAGS: ETRN, OCON, ECAF
To: IO
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO TOKYO
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005